

statement. Has the Government considered this in the last two months or not?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The problem is, when the Commerce Minister made the statement, he was not the Minister at that time.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : The Industry Minister has said something. I have made a statement in the House and I said that this is a matter of policy. Did I say that we will do it or we will not do it? I did not say that. I only said that such a macro issue cannot be answered by a reply in the Question Hour.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Has the Government considered this proposal in the last two months? That is all I want to know.

MR. SPEAKER : I think we need to have some other occasion to get all these clarifications.

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I understand, according to the Economic Survey report, full convertibility of rupee on capital account is possible if fiscal deficit is reduced to the minimum, inflation is brought under control, if there is a good export performance, a comfortable foreign exchange reserve, etc. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that even after five years of introduction of liberalisation policy, transparency and greater extent of open market policy followed by the Government, it has not been possible for the Government to bring down fiscal deficit, contain inflationary pressures, increase export and improve foreign exchange reserves etc. It seems that in the present situation it will not be possible for the Government to introduce full convertibility on capital account. Therefore, the foreign investment is slack. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any other mechanism for perceptible export growth and drastically reduced the fiscal deficit so that full convertibility is made possible.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Budget is going to be presented in a few hours from now. Let the hon. Member wait till then.

MR. SPEAKER : "Wait for the Budget", that is a good answer.

[Translation]

Disinvestment of Shares of PSUs

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*105. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Disinvestment of PSU Shares unlikely this fiscal, says Maran" appearing in the "Times of India" dated January 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the total amount which has been mobilised through disinvestment so far; and

(c) the names of the Public Sector Undertakings which were identified sick by the Government for the purpose of selling of shares and the reasons for which the shares of these institutions have not been sold?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No disinvestment has taken place so far during 1996-97.

(c) No sick units have been identified or their shares offered for sale, as a part of disinvestment programme. As such the question of the shares not having been sold does not arise.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister is not factual. He has given reply that

[English]

"As such the question of shares not having been sold does not arise."

[Translation]

I would like to know whether it is not a fact that United Front Government has sent a proposal to the Cabinet for selling 11 companies; not their shares but out right sale of these companies. Whether it is not a fact that five out of it are viable companies which comprise Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. Tung bhadra Steel Products Limited.; National Industrial Development Corporation Ltd; Bridge and Roof and Company Ltd, Hindustan Salts Ltd. If it not true that last year the United Front Government had set up a disinvestment Commission under the Chairmanship of Shri N.V. Ramakrishna for carrying out disinvestment in a phased manner. Whether it is not true that the UF Government had promised the people under their Common Minimum Programme that financial and management structure building of Public Undertakings would be accorded priority. In the face of this promise why this proposal was referred to the cabinet and why it was not brought in to the notice of the Disinvestment Commission. Why its statutory power are being diluted and its being delegated only the advisory powers only. This is exactly what I want to know.

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, Disinvestment Commission is an autonomous body to give advice to the Government on measures taken for disinvesting from the public sector undertakings.

Sir, what the hon. Member is referring to is regarding the 11 companies under the Department of Heavy Industry. Every public sector company is embarking on a plan to restructure it. So, regarding 11 companies, the Department of Heavy Industry, have suggested for going in for joint ventures, even diluting the equity capital to the extent of 74 per cent. So, this is only a concept paper and the Cabinet has given consent to it. But everything has to be gone through individually for the approval of the Cabinet. No final decision has been taken. The Commission will go into the picture when we want to disinvest.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Please do not formulate any such policy as may instead of caring the insurance sector, prove total for this 'Golden Goose' like sector, whether it is not true that the 1996-97 Budget had envisaged mobilising five thousand crore of Rupees by floating the shares of Public Sector Undertakings the hon. Minister has concealed that not even a single share could be sold, is it not indicative of the failure of Government on economic front? Has it not undermined the Government's credibility among the people. The entire nation wants to know from the Government whether it has lost its economic credibility to such an extent that nobody is willing to buy the shares of Government Companies. If this kind of situation prevails, then what remedial measures are being taken by the Government.

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I want to disabuse his thinking. In the previous Government, Dr. Manmohan Singh when he was the Finance Minister, in the interim Budget took credit for Rs. 5000 crore of disinvestment. After the elections, the new Government came and the new Finance Minister also took credit for Rs. 5000 of disinvestment. It has been decided by the Cabinet that the first two tranches would be done by the core committee. Afterwards, it will be given to the Disinvestment Commission. The process is on. Already we have decided to disinvest about five per cent of the capital issued in IOCL and seven per cent of the Government holding in VSNL. Regarding VSNL, already pre-marketing exercise has started and it is going on.

DR. B.N. REDDY : The hon. Minister has stated earlier that before privatising, they will also consult the employees and they will not do the privatisation without their consultation. In Andhra Pradesh, there are some sugar industries which are being privatised and I have represented this matter in Parliament earlier and also

to the hon. Minister. I would definitely request the Minister to inform as to whether the Government in the States can just take a *suo motu* decision to privatise the PSUs.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Which factory are you referring to?

DR. B.N. REDDY : Nizam Sugar Factory in Miryalguda.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Who is running it?

DR. B.N. REDDY : The State Government.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, it is regarding the State Government public undertaking.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think you can expect the Minister to answer this question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : May I know from the hon. Minister, firstly, the amount of disinvestment of public sector undertakings and secondly, whether the Government proposes to utilise a portion of the amount received by way of disinvestment for revival of sick public sector undertakings?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : As you may know, Sir, in the Common Minimum Programme, we have stated that a portion of the disinvestment amount will be earmarked for social sector expenditure like public health and education in the backward areas. Now, ten per cent of the disinvestment amount has been earmarked for promoting the public sector undertakings and for improving the operational efficiency.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : It is the Government which issues licences to the sugar factories. He is misleading the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not disturb others. Other hon. Members have also got the right to put questions. It is not your exclusive right.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSAN TIWARI : What power would be delegated to the Disinvestment Commission and on what basis it would sell out the shares of the companies?...(Interruptions)

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : I have a point of order...(Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no Point of Order during Question Hour. Please understand that.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to raise a question seeking to know the powers vested in the Disinvestment Commission and the persons represented on it and also the basis on which it would sale the shares of any company.

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, the Disinvestment Commission cannot sell the shares. It is an expert body, it is an autonomous body to give advise to the Government as to how much amount of shares can be disinvested. It will supervise the sales.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Highest Tax Paying Companies

*106. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of top 50 companies/individuals who

have paid the highest amount of Central excise and income tax during the last and the current year, so far, State-wise; and

(b) the amount still outstanding against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b)

(i) *Income tax (including Corporation tax)*

Lists of 50 companies who have filed highest returned income for the Assessment years 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given in the attached Statement I and II respectively. The amounts of tax outstanding, if any, against these companies will become known only after the final assessments are made.

(ii) *Central Excise Duty :*

List containing the names of 50 companies who have paid the highest amount of Central Excise duty alongwith the amounts paid during 1995-96 and 1996-97 (upto January, 1997) and the amount of duty outstanding is given in the Statement III attached.

Statement-I

*List of Top 50 Income-tax and Corporation Tax Payers for the Assessment Year 1994-95
(Based on Returned Income)*

						(Rs. in crores)
Rank	Name of Assessee	Status	Returned Income	Tax Paid	Charge	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1.	Life Insurance Corpn. of India	Co.	2769.04	398.08	Maharashtra	
2.	State Bank of India	Co.	432.26	622.45	-do-	
3.	I.D.B.I.	Co.	361.17	18.40	-do-	
4.	B.H.E.L.	Co.	344.54	14.69	Delhi	
5.	Indian Oil Corporation	Co.	322.89	125.50	Maharashtra	
6.	Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	Co.	316.82	1.18	-do-	
7.	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	Co.	305.78	183.07	-do-	
8.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Co.	281.13	137.54	-do-	
9.	Bharat Petroleum Corpn Ltd.	Co.	272.78	133.06	-do-	
10.	I.T.C. Ltd.	Co.	246.01	136.00	West Bengal	
11.	G.I.C. of India	Co.	218.57	94.89	Maharashtra	
12.	Bajaj Auto Ltd.	Co.	215.77	105.50	-do-	
13.	Indian Farmers & Fertilizers Corpn.	Co.	192.13	77.47	Delhi	
14.	Hindustan Levers Ltd.	Co.	1182.45	103.05	Maharashtra	
15.	Kribhco, 40.50 Red House	Co.	180.88	71.60	Delhi	
16.	Voltas Ltd.	Co.	172.38	3.87	Maharashtra	
17.	United India Insurance Co. Ltd.	Co.	145.94	76.53	Tamil Nadu	
18.	I.C.I.C.I. Ltd.	Co.	132.99	81.21	Maharashtra	